JOHN WILLIAM CROOK



John Wm. Crook, son of John and Mary Giles Crook. Born April 9, 1858, Provo Utah. Married Sarah Elizabeth Bond Nov. 10, 1886. Daughter of Stephen and Sarah Elizabeth Bond.

John Wm. died November 3, 1950. Six children born to them.

John William Crook was born April 9, 1858, at Provo, Utah, to John and Mary Giles Crook. The following year the family moved to Provo Valley and located in Heber where he resided his entire life.

He was educated in the district schools, seldom having more than four or five months during the year. He attended the Brigham Young Academy the winter of 1879 to April 1880 and the winter of 1880 and '81. Due to his father's illness he could attend school no longer as planned.

He was a member of the first YMMIA organized in the valley in 1877 and a member of the Literary Society, joining in 1876.

He worked in the sawmill in Daniels Canyon, owned by his father and William Forman, who also owned the stone quarry business. He was one of the town's local theatrical players, playing one of the leads in some 15 plays. Although he was a mild, quiet, good natured man, the parts he played were the villain. He also gave readings and dialogues.

He married Sarah Elizabeth Bond, the daughter of Stephen A. and Sarah Clark Bond, November 10, 1886, in the Logan Temple, making the trip with wagon and horses. Lizzie (as she was called) was born in a log cabin across the street west of the north school, in Heber. Her father died when she was nine, leaving the mother with six children to support. Each child had to start work to help out, at an early age. She started working as a maid and mother's helper for 25 cents a week. When she was 12 her wages were raised to fifty cents a week.

After the couple were married they spent the next years building a home, John making his own bricks by hand, and working in the rock quarry. When the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated they attended the dedication, soon after he was called to serve in the British mission. He left his good wife and three children to do for themselves while he labored in the New Castle Conference. Arriving in Liverpool, England, June 7, 1894. While in England he gathered genealogy of his family and opened ways for continuous work to be done.

Before his mission he worked as a teacher and priest in the Heber West Ward. On his return he was asked to work on the Sunday School Stake Board and was ward clerk for the Heber West Ward until he was called into the Stake High Council by President Smart in 1901, and was ward clerk of the Second Ward for almost 30 years as well as working in the stake, his sons taking the minutes when he was unable to be there. He served in the high Council until the release of Pres. J. R. Murdock. He served as chairman of the genealogical committee for the stake, and for the second ward.

He served two terms on the city council, serving with James W. Clyde as mayor. At this time the Heber Power Plant was constructed. He served as director of the Wasatch Canal and on the committee for the Humbug Canal.

Most of the red sandstone seen in Provo Valley came from his rock quarry in Lake Creek. At times, six men were hired to help quarry rock for schools, churches and shipments outside our valley. He was also a farmer and stockman.

He was always a man who could be depended on to do all in his power for the community, attending political primaries and supporting the men who were in office. John lived to be 92, still very capable and able to read without glasses until his death Nov. 3, 1950. His wife Lizzie worked as a Relief Society visiting teacher and was on the Stake Relief Society board, serving under Sister Sophia Luke. They reared six children and one grandchild.

Their children are: William Clark, Mabel, Reno G., Nellie E., Alice M., Albert Bond.

ROYAL D. CROOK

Royal D. Crook was born in Heber City January 3, 1903, the son of Frederick Crook and Minnie M. Lindsay Crook. He grew up and attended the district school. Entered high school, graduated from there in 1922 as valedictorian of his class. The following summer he left for a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to South Africa, where he labored three years. After his release he toured Europe for one month. Shortly after returning home he entered the Utah State Agriculture College at Logan. He graduated from that institution in 1929 and received a scholarship to attend Cornell University.

Before leaving for this school he married the charming young school teacher, Miss Willmith Witt in the the Salt Lake Temple. She was the daughter of William Witt and Amelia Murdock Witt, and they went to New York on their honeymoon. They remained there until he graduated with a master of science degree in animal husbandry and farm management.

In 1933 they went to Ely, Nevada, to accept a position of County Agriculture Agent of Ely County. He was called from there in 1934 to be the county agent of Churchill and North Lyon Counties with headquarters in Fallon, Nevada. He held this position from 1934 to 1946. During this time he purchased a farm in that vicinity and from the time he left the office he has been farming. He has a good farm and a modern dairy.

He has been president of the Nevada Milk Producers Assn., president of the Churchill Company Agricultural Cooperative Assn. and many other things for the betterment of agriculture in that vicinity. With the help of his helpful and very efficient wife they have reared a family of seven children, six girls and one boy. Three of these girls have graduated from college. The eldest one is married and has three children. One has filled a mission for the LDS Church in Japan. Two of them, a boy and a girl, twins, are sophomores in college. The boy now has a call to fill a mission for the Church in China. The other two girls are progressing along the same lines. Royal has also been active in the Church. He was counselor to the bishop while living in Ely; superintendent of the Sunday School in Fallon in 1938; from 1940 to 1944 he was counselor to the bishop in Fallon. In 1944 was called to be the bishop of the Fallon Ward, a position he held from 1944 to 1956. In 1960, he was serving as a high councilman in Reno Stake.

His wife has also been very active in the Church, holding many positions, and at present is president of Relief Society. She has helped and encouraged him at all times.

H. CLAY CUMMINGS



When a small boy of three years of age H. Clay Cummings stood by the bed side of his grandmother, Sarah Cummings, a few days before she died. She put her hand on his head and said, "Bless you, honey, some day you will be the President." This virtually came to pass and started with a call to be bishop of the Heber Second Ward in 1926. Eighteen months later he became first counselor in the Presidency of Wasatch Stake and served for ten years.